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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/534,786
Amendment dated June 5, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 5, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for bracing the pelvic region of a patient, the device ~~including~~ comprising:
 - a) a plurality of continuous straps for wrapping completely around the pelvic region of a patient, the straps being arranged in a side-by-side relationship and interconnected to each adjacent strap at one or more points to restrict relative movement of the straps at the or each point of interconnection, wherein when positioned on the patient, one of the straps may be an upper strap covering the upper pelvic region and adjoining lower abdominal region of a patient and the other strap or one of the other straps may be a lower strap covering the lower pelvic region and adjoining crutch region of the patient; and
 - b) fastening means for holding the straps wrapped around the pelvic region of the patient, whereby in use, the fastening means of the upper strap can be released to provide access to the lower abdominal region, or the fastening means of the lower strap can be released to provide access to the crutch region of the patient.
2. (Original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the device includes 4 to 8 straps of which 2 to 4 straps may be required to brace the patient's pelvis.
3. (Original) The device according to claim 2, wherein when 3 or 4 straps are required to brace the patient's pelvis, straps interposed between the upper and lower straps can remain in position

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on the patient while the upper and/or lower strap is released to facilitate surgical procedures.

4. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein each strap is at least 4cm wide.

5. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein each strap is between 9 and 12cm wide.

6. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the straps are interconnected by a resiliently flexible member and that the straps extend from the member in parallel relationship.

7. (Original) The device according to claim 6, wherein the resiliently flexible member interconnect the straps at a point along their length that, in use, can be wrapped around the pelvic region of a patient.

8. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~5~~ 6, wherein the straps are further interconnected by releasable interconnecting means that interconnect adjacent straps at a spacing from the resiliently flexible member.

9. (Original) The device according to claim 8, wherein the releasable interconnecting means is in the form of flaps of co-operating hook and loop fasteners that extend from adjacent straps and

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that the flaps overlap in fastening engagement.

10. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 8, wherein at least two sets of releasable interconnecting means are spaced along the straps.

11. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 8, whereby in use the releasable interconnecting means may interconnect the straps wrapped around the patient.

12. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 8, whereby in use the releasable interconnecting means of the straps wrapped around the patient are released from the releasable interconnecting means of adjacent unused straps.

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 8, wherein the straps are substantially equal in length and that the resiliently flexible member is located toward an end of the straps and that the each strap is interconnected by the releasable interconnecting means to adjacent straps at 2 or more positions along the length of the straps.

14. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the fastening means enables the length of each strap wrapped around the patient to be adjusted, thereby allowing the device to be fitted to patients of varying sizes and allowing pressure applied by each strap to the patient to be adjusted.

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15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein on each strap the fastening means includes a first attachment means and a plurality of co-operating second attachment means spaced along the length of the strap which can be coupled together so that each strap can form a loop of varying sizes.

16. (Original) The device according to claim 14, wherein the first attachment means is in the form of a flexible tab and that the second attachment means is in the form of one or more openings through which the tab can be threaded and fastened.

17. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim ~~16~~ ¹⁵, wherein each tab includes sections of hook or loop fasteners and that the openings are rings projecting from the straps, whereby in use, the tab can be threaded through a ring and folded on itself so that the hook and loop fasteners engage.

18. (New) A device for bracing the pelvic region of a patient, the device comprising:
a) a plurality of straps for wrapping around the pelvic region of a patient, the straps being arranged in a side-by-side relationship and interconnected by a resiliently flexible member to each adjacent strap at one or more points to restrict relative movement of the straps at the or each point of interconnection, wherein the straps are further interconnected by releasable interconnecting means that interconnect adjacent straps at a spacing from the resiliently flexible member, the straps extending from the resiliently flexible member in a parallel relationship, wherein when positioned on the patient, one of the straps may be an

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upper strap covering the upper pelvic region and adjoining lower abdominal region of a patient and the other strap or one of the other straps may be a lower strap covering the lower pelvic region and adjoining crutch region of the patient; and

b) fastening means for holding the straps wrapped around the pelvic region of the patient, whereby in use, the fastening means of the upper strap can be released to provide access to the lower abdominal region, or the fastening means of the lower strap can be released to provide access to the crutch region of the patient.

19. (New) The device according to claim 18, wherein the releasable interconnecting means is in the form of flaps of co-operating hook and loop fasteners that extend from adjacent straps and that the flaps overlap in fastening engagement.

20. (New) The device according to claim 18, whereby in use the releasable interconnecting means may interconnect the straps wrapped around the patient.